

BLACKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

News Release

DATE: March 17, 2005

CONTACT: Lt. Bruce Bradbery 961-1150

SUBJECT: Vehicle Pursuit Ending in a Collision with a Residence

During the early morning hours of March 17th, officers of the Blacksburg Police Department were involved in a vehicular pursuit of a traffic violator. Officers were attempting to stop the late model Honda Civic for erratic driving and suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. The duration of the pursuit was approximately four (4) minutes, and throughout the violator never left the Town limits. As the pursuit proceeded north on North Main Street, the violator's speed and driving became an issue with the prevailing weather conditions (light snowfall). Officers terminated the pursuit, but maintained a patrol presence in the area. Minutes after the pursuit was terminated, officers located the suspect vehicle in the yard of 2011 Scott Drive, resting against the house. The vehicle left the roadway at the intersection of North Main Street and Mount Tabor Road at high speed and traveled approximately three hundred (300) feet across an open field before colliding with a privacy fence and the house. Both occupants fled the crash scene on foot. The residents of 2011 Scott Drive were home at the time of the crash, but were uninjured. Damage to the residence was estimated at \$3,000, and damage to the Honda at \$2,500.

Within the next ninety (90) minutes, both the driver and passenger were located and taken into custody. The driver was identified as Bryan McDowell Johnson, 30, of Lexington, Va. and the passenger as Francis Othello Johnson, 25, of Staunton, Va. Both were charged with attempting to elude police, leaving the scene of an accident, and public intoxication. Bryan Johnson was also charged with reckless driving as well as other traffic offences. During investigation it was discovered that Bryan Johnson had outstanding arrest warrants from Rockbridge County, Va.
